1. SUMMARY: WE ESTIMATE THAT THE LEVEL OF VIOLENCE IN EL SALVADOR DURING THE PERIOD COVERED WAS HIGHER THAN THAT OF PREVIOUS WEEKS. MORE PEOPLE WERE KILLED--AT LEAST 143--AND WERE MORE VIOLENT INCIDENTS. AMONG THE PEOPLE KILLED WERE THE ALLEGED CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES OF LIBERATION (KILLED BY THE MILITARY ALONG WITH HIS MOTHER AND BROTHER); THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL LOTTERY (ASSASSINATED BY THE FPL) AND 13 SAN MIGUEL RESIDENTS, ALL DRUNKARDS, ALL SHOT AND ALL LEFT TOGETHER WITH A SIGN INSCRIBED BY THE SQUADRON OF DEATH, THE RIGHT'S PHANTOM KILLER ORGANIZATION. INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE WERE WIDESPREAD AND NUMEROUS TYPES; BETWEEN GUERRILLAS AND MILITIA--WERE ALL WELL REPRESENTED. AT THE CLOSE OF THE WEEK (APRIL 30) THE GOES MILITARY BEGAN A LARGE OPERATION AGAINST GUERRILLAS IN NORTHERN MORAZAN.

2. DEATHS: AT LEAST 143 PEOPLE WERE VICTIMS OF (APPARENTLY) POLITICAL VIOLENCE DURING THE SEVEN DAY PERIOD COVERED. THIS TOTAL DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY CASUALTIES FIGURES FOR THE MORAZAN OPERATION THAT BEGAN ON 4/30

3. INCCIDENTS:
--ON 4/25 THE CONSTABULARY AND MUNICIPAL BUILDING IN CUSCATANCINGO (SAN SALVADOR) WERE ATTACKED BY GUERRILLAS; THE ATTACKERS WERE REPELLED BY NATIONAL GUARD (&,) TROOPS.
--ON 4/25 TWO WATER TANKS IN THE ESCALON (HIGH-RENT) SECTION OF SAN SALVADOR WERE PERFORATED BY BOMB EXPLOSIONS. POLICE ARRESTED FOUR SUSPECTS AT THE SCENE.
--ON 4/25 A SAN SALVAEOR BANK WAS DAMAGED BY A BOMB EXPLOSION.

--ON 4/25 AN UDETERMINED NUMBER OF GN TROOPS WERE KILLED WHEN THEY WERE ATTACKED NEAR TECOLUCA (SAN VICENTE).
--ON 4/25 GUERRILLAS BATTLED GN TROOPS AND MEMBERS OF THE CIVIL DEFENSE COMMITTEE IN TEJUTEPQUE (CABANAS) FOR OVER TWO HOURS BUT WERE UNABLE TO TAKE THE TOWN.
--ON 4/25 THE GN POST IS OSICALA (MORAZAN) WAS ATTACKED. NO ADDITIONAL SETAILS.
--ON 4/25 TWO MEMBERS OF A GROUP OF MUGGERS (REPORTEDLY GUERRILLAS) WERE KILLED BY NATIONAL POLICE MEMBERS IN THE MIRALVALLE SECTION OF SAN SALVADOR.
--ON 4/26 FMLN MEMBERS DYNAMITED A BRIDGE LINKING TEJUTLA AND LA PALMA (CHALATENANGO).
--ON 4/26 A TRUCK CONTAINING FOODSTUFF AND ARMS WAS SEIZED AT A GUERRILLA ENCAMPENT NEAR TEJUTLA (CHALATENANGO) BY GOES TROOPS.
--ON 4/26 GUERRILLAS ATTACKED THE ARMY AND GN POST IN TEJUTLA AND LA PALMA CHALATENENAGO BUT FLED INTO THE SURROUNDINGS HILLS AFTER A SHORT EXCHANGE OF FIRE.
--ON 4/26 LIGHT POSTS IN CORINTO (MORAZAN) WERE FILLED BY GUERRILLAS LEAVING THE TOWN IN THE DARK.
--ON 4/27 A BRIDGE NEAR CANTON CERROH GRANDE (CABANAS).
--ON 4/27 A REPORTEDLY VERY LARGE GROUP OF GUEPRILLAS (OVER 200) TOOK THE TOWN OF NUEVO EDEN DE SAN JUAN (SAN MIGUEL) DESTROYED THE ANTEL (TELEPHONE/TELEGRAPH) BUILDING AND OCCUPIED THE GN HEADQUARTERS.
--ON 4/27 A BOMB EXPLOSION DAMAGED THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUILDING IN SAN SALVADOR.
--ON 4/27 AN EXPLOSION OUTSIDE OF A SAN SALVAOOR THEATER WRECKED SEVERAL CARS, DAMAGED THE TEATHER BUT CAUSED NO SERIOUS INJURIES.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY HR DATE 2002
RELEASE IN FULL
RELEASE IN PART
EXCISE
DENIAL
RELEASE IN PART
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

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Department of State

INCOMING TELEGRAM

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ACTION ARA-16

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-15 OIC-02 CIAE-00 ICA-15
DODE-00 L-01 IO-15 NSC-05 NSAE-00 SY-05 HA-06
TRSE-00 PM-09 PA-02 SAL-01 ACDA-12 SYE-00 SP-02
SPRS-02 /119 W
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R 081330Z MAY 81
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3717
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PAN/INTAFF
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 SAN SALVADOR 3480

PANAMA ALSO FOR ADS

--ON OR ABOUT 4/27 GUERRILLAS ESTABLISHED A ROADBLOCK NEAR APOPA (SAN SALVADOR) AND ROBBED PASSERBY.
--ON OR ABOUT 4/27 GUERRILLAS ENTERED EL BURRO AND EL VICARO CASERIOS (HAMLETS) NEAR ZACATECOLUCA (LA PAZ).
--ON 4/28 POLICE GUARDING A SAN SALVADOR THEATER WERE ATTACKED BY GUNMEN. TWO ASSAILANTS AND ONE POLICE WERE INJURED.
--ON 4/28 THE CONSTABULARY IN SANTIAGO TEXACUANGOS (SAN SALVADOR) WAS FIRED ON BY GUERRILLAS.
--ON 4/28 GUERRILLAS WHO ATTEMPTED TO SET FIRE TO A SOFT DRINK TRUCK IN SAN SALVADOR WERE FORCED TO FLEE (POSSIBLY BY SOFT DRINK FANCIERS).
--ON 4/28 APOPA WAS AGAIN THE VICTIM OF GUERRILLAS ATTACK; THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, THE CONSTABULARY, AND SEVERAL STORES WERE ATTACKED BY THE LEFTIST.
--ON 4/28 SAN ANTONIO LOS RANCHOS (CHALATENANGO) WAS TAKEN BY GUERRILLAS.
--ON OR ABOUT 4/28 GUERRILLAS INVADED CANTON POTRERO BATRES, SAN ISIDRO (CABANAS) KILLED THREE INHABITANTS AND INJURED THREE OTHERS.
--ON OR ABOUT 4/28 CIVIL DEFENSE COMITTEE MEMBERS IN CANTON EL CARAO, TECOLUCA (SAN VICENTE) CLASHED WITH GUERRILLAS SEEKING TO ENTER THE TOWN.
--ON 4/29 CHINAMECA (SAN MIGUEL) WAS THE OBJECT OF ATTACK BY HEAVELY ARMED GUERRILLAS. THESE WERE, HOWEVER, REPELLED.
--ON 4/29 A TREASURY POLICE (PH) POST GUARDING AN ELECTRICAL SUBSTATION IN SOYAPANGO (SSAN SALVADOR) WAS ATTACKED BY GUERRILLAS. THE INTERPRETER FOR A U.S. JOURNALIST WHO DECIDED TO ENTER THE FRAY WAS KILLED; THE JOURNALIST AND A SALVADORAN COLLEAGUE WERE INJURED.
--ON 4/29 A SAN SALVADOR HARDWARE STORE WAS BOMBED.
--ON 4/29 CARLOS HIDALGO CUELLAR, THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL LOTTERY, WAS ASSASSINATED IN MEJICANOS (SAN SALVADOR) THE FPL CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CRIME, JUSTIFYING IT ON THE BASIS THAT HIDALGO WAS A DISSIDENT MARXIST.
--ON 4/29 MACHINEGUN-TOTING ASSAILANTS STOLE A TAXI FROM ITS DRIVER NEAR THE SAN SALVADOR CIVIC CENTER. THENDRIVER CALLED FOR ASSISTANCE FROM NEARBY COLLEAGUES; THEIR PURSUIT ENDED WHEN THE ASSAILANT MACHINEGUNNED THEM, KILLING ONE.
--ON 4/29 GUERRILLAS ATTEMPTED TO OVERRUN GUAJOYO HACIENDA NEAR TECOLUCA (SAN VICENTE).
--ON 4/29 GUERRILLAS ENGAGED STOPPING AND ROBBING MOTORIST ON THE ROAD TO VERAPAZ (SAN VICENTE) SHOT AND KILLED ONE VICTIM WHO REFUSED TO COOPERATE.
--ON 4/30 ASSAILANTS SET FIRE TO THE PRENSA GRAFICA NEWSPAPER DISTRIBUTORSHIP IN SANTA ANA. TWOPEOPLE (INCLUDING ONE ARSONIST) SUFFERED GASOLINE BURNS AND ONE MAN WAS SHOT BY THE DEPARTING VISITORS.
--ON 4/30 A SAN SALVADOR SUPERMARKET WAS BOMBED.
--ON 4/30 A SMALL BUSINESS IN SAN SALVADOR WAS BOMBED.
--ON OR ABOUT 4/30 A MILITARY PATGOL WAS AMBUSHED NEAR CANTON RIO BLANCO, ZACATECOLUCA (LA PAZ).
--ON OR ABOUT 4/30 ONE MEMBER OF THE CIVIL DEFENSE COMITTEE IN CANTON EL CHILE, ZACATECOLUCA WAS KILLLED BY A GROUP OF GUERRILLA ATTACKERS.
--ON 5/1 SEVEN PEOPLE WERE KILLED AND FOUR INJURED BY A TERRORIST BOMB EXPLOSION ONTHE ROAD LINKING CINQUERA (CUSCATLAN) AND SUCHITOTO (CABANAS). THE DEAD AND INJURED WERE PART OF A GROUP WHICH HAD REFUSED TO JOIN THE GUERRILLAS.
--ON 5/1 AN ARMY LIUTENENT WAS ACCOSTED, SHOT AND KILLED ON THE ROAD BETWEEN ACAJUTLA AND SONSONATE.
--ON 5/1 A BOMB EXPLODED IN A PRIVATE RESIDENCE IN SAN SALVADOR.
CHAPIN

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